

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01356 141749Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 JUS-01 SSO-00
USIE-00 PRS-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15
STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 INRE-00 NEA-10 /139 W
----- 125682 /50 45

O R 141615Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2095
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, OPEC
SUBJ: OPEC MINISTERIAL--FURTHER REPORTS AND RUMORS

REF: JIDDA 8018 (NOTAL)

1. SADLI OF INDONESIA IN CONVERSATION AFTERNOON OF DEC 14 WITH
TWO US JOURNALISTS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IN VIEW OF FRAGILE
STATE OF WORLD ECONOMY A CONTINUED FREEZE OF OIL PRICES FOR FIVE
MONTHS MIGHT BE WARRANTED AND THAT FIVE MONTHS, AFTER ALL,
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WAS NOT A VERY LONG TIME. SADLI ADDED THAT FIVE MONTHS DELAY

WOULD GIVE CIEC AN ADDITIONAL CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS UTILITY TO OIL PRODUCERS AND LDC'S. SADLI ALSO SAID THAT AFTER FIVE MONTHS EVEN THE SAUDIS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST TEN PERCENT PRICE RISE, IMPLYING THAT SUCH A RISE UNACCEPTABLE TOR SAUDIS NOW.

2. US JOURNALIST WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION NOT AT ALL SURE WHETHER SADLI'S COMMENTS IDLE SPECULATION OR WHETHER THERE IS POSSIBLE SUPPORT WITHIN OPEC FOR CONTINUED FREEZE.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF OPEC DELEGATES IN DOHA ARE AWARE TF POSSIBLE NON-ATTENDANCE OF YAMANI, BUT PRESS IS AWARE OF POSSIBILITY AND SOME ARE SPECULATING THAT YAMANI'S ABSENCE MAY BE SIGNAL BY SAUDIS THAT THEY ARE UNWILLING TO COMPROMISE WITH PRICE HAWKS. ACCORDING TO SOME VERSIONS OF THIS THEORY YAMANI WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN MINISTERIAL MEETING SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE POLITIC FOR HIM TO COME TO DOHA AND VETO INCREASE OF TEN PERCENT OR MORE AFTER HE HAD EARLIER (IN TAIF IN AUGUST) GIVEN AT LEAST IMPLICIT ASSURANCES TO SOME OTHER OPEC MEMBERS THAT SAUDIS WOULD WILLINGLY ACCEPT TEN PERCENT INCREASE IN DECEMBER AND MIGHT GO AS HIGH AS FIFTEEN PERCENT.

4. IN ARRIVAL INTERVIEWS OIL MINISTERS OF KUWAIT, UAE AND IRAQ WERE ASKED ABOUT PRICE INCREASE. KAZIMI OF KUWAIT STATED THAT DECISION WOULD BE UNANIMOUS AND TO THE BENEFIT OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS BUT MENTIONED NO FIGURE. OTAYBAH OF UAE REPEATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE MODEST INCREASE AND WHEN PRESSED SAID WILL BE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT. IRAQI, ABDUL KARIM STATED THAT PRICE INCREASE SHOULD BE AT LEAST TWENTY FIVE PERCENT AND SHOULD COVER INFLATION COST.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA01356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0527
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761246/aaaabndb.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JIDDA 8018
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPEC MINISTERIAL--FURTHER REPORTS AND RUMORS
TAGS: ENRG, QA, OPEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006